

In the Claims

- 1-3. (Cancelled).
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46 13, wherein the first agent is a cell-adhesion promoter.
- 5-7. (Cancelled)
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the first agent is a protein.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the protein is fibronectin.
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 13, wherein the first portion of the surface of the article is contiguous with the second portion.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Currently Amended) ~~The A method of claim 12 for patterning cells, wherein the pre-coating step comprises~~ comprising:
contacting ~~the~~ a first surface of ~~the~~ a masking system with a substrate, the masking system comprising a flexible cohesive mask, the masking system including the first surface, an opposing second surface, and a plurality of channels passing through the masking system and connecting the first surface with the second surface; and
pre-coating the ~~a~~ second agent onto the second surface and the plurality of channels of the masking system, wherein the first surface of the masking system is free of the second agent;
thereafter, shielding a first portion of a surface of an article with the masking system by contacting the first surface of the masking system with the article, wherein the flexible cohesive mask is in conformal contact with the surface of the article;

applying a first agent through a channel within the masking system to a second portion of the surface of the article while preventing application of the first agent to the first portion of the surface of the article, the channel being one of the plurality of channels;

thereafter, applying cells through the channel within the masking system to the second portion of the surface of the article while preventing application of the cells to the first portion of the surface of the article; and

removing the masking system from the first portion of the surface of the article.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the shielding step comprises:
removing the masking system from the substrate; and
bringing the first surface of the masking system into conformal contact with the first portion of the surface of the article.
15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the first agent is a cell-adhesion promoter.
16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the second agent is a cell-adhesion inhibitor.
- 17-18. (Cancelled)
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising adding a third agent to the first portion of the surface of the article.
20. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising allowing the cells applied to the first agent to spread onto the third agent.
21. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the first agent is a first cell-adhesion promoter and the third agent is a second cell-adhesion promoter.
22. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising adding cells of a second type to the third agent.

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23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim + 13, wherein the channel has a dimension for controlling the growth of a single cell.

24-47. (Cancelled)